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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 19 November 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from His Excellency Mr. Vladislav Jovanović, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 79, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 15 November 1993 from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General

Deeply alarmed by the activities carried out in the Republic of Croatia with a view to exterminating the Serb people in the region in violation of the provisions of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948, I have informed the competent bodies and commissions of the United Nations, as well as other international forums, about mass murders of Serbs, destruction of many Serb settlements and the ethnic cleansing of towns and villages with a mixed population (Zagreb, Osijek, Vinkovci, Novska, Slavonska Požega, Karlovac, Sisak, Varaždin, Daruvar, Virovitica, Bjelovar, Dubrovnik, Sibenik, Zadar and others, in some of which Serbs accounted for up to 41 per cent of the overall population, have now become almost ethnically "pure Croatian towns").

The aim of the activities of the Croatian authorities is not only the ethnic cleansing and the expulsion of Serbs from their ancestral homes. The totalitarian Croatian authorities have made every effort to remove all traces of the centuries-old life and culture of Serbs in the territory within the present-day Republic of Croatia. These activities of the Government of Croatia and its subordinate organs, carried out in contravention not only of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, but also of the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Protection of Cultural Heritage, are manifested, in particular, in their attempts to remove the traces of the centuries-old presence and activity of the Serbian Orthodox Church in this territory and to prevent its further work. The following information is the best evidence of such intentions of the Government of Croatia:

1. Situation in Serbian Orthodox Church eparchies

Churches and Bishop's residences have been either dynamited, burned down or damaged in each of the five eparchies of the Serbian Orthodox Church, established in the territory of the former Yugoslav federal unit of Croatia. The damage, extensive everywhere, varies from eparchy to eparchy. The following information on the level of destruction in its eparchies in Croatia has been supplied by the Serbian Orthodox Church and confirmed by the EC Monitoring Mission:

(a) Eparchy of Dalmatia

(1) 13 Churches demolished;

(2) 15 Churches heavily damaged, 4 residences, 1 monastery and 2 chapels damaged and 2 cemeteries demolished.

(b) Eparchy of Zagreb and Ljubljana

(1) 9 Churches demolished;

(2) 25 Churches heavily damaged;

(3) Residence of the Metropolitan of Zagreb and Ljubljana in Zagreb dynamited, 5 residences demolished and 4 residences, 2 chapels and a church museum damaged.

(c) Eparchy of Gornji Karlovac

(1) 5 Churches demolished;

(2) 18 Churches damaged, 3 residences demolished and 7 damaged; 5 cemeteries demolished.

(d) Eparchy of Slavonia

(1) 31 Churches demolished;

(2) 15 Churches heavily damaged;

(3) The Bishop's Residence in Pakrac demolished and looted, 2 monasteries damaged, 20 residences and other ecclesiastical establishments demolished. Out of them, 13 establishments have been dynamited and 7 burned down; 5 chapels have been demolished and 7 residences, 7 chapels and 2 cemeteries damaged.

183 Serb villages have been destroyed and 10 towns ethnically cleansed in the Eparchy of Slavonia.

(e) Eparchy of Osijek and Polje and Baranja

(1) 12 Churches demolished;

(2) 21 Churches heavily damaged, 6 residences dynamited and 8 damaged; 3 chapels demolished and 2 damaged; 2 cemeteries demolished and 1 damaged.

2. Destruction of important cultural and historic monuments

The cultural and historic heritage of the Serb people, protected as a cultural heritage of major importance, has been destroyed with the knowledge and participation of the Croatian authorities, out of which I point to the following:

(a) Log churches at Rastovac, built in 1700, and at Donja Račenica built, in 1709, burned down;

(b) The Museum of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Zagreb, with exhibits from thirteenth to nineteenth centuries dynamited;

(c) The Bishopric Library, founded by the Serb Patriarch Arsenije Čarnojević in 1690 in Pakrac, has been looted. The library housed invaluable cultural assets which made it the most prestigious library of the Serb people.

The intention of the Croatian authorities to ethnically cleanse the Serb historical and ethnic territories and to eliminate the traces of the centuries-long existence of Serbs in those territories is evinced also by the fact that about 70 per cent of the demolished or damaged ecclesiastical establishments are located outside combat zones, some of them over 50 km away from the frontline (Pula, Rijeka, Zagreb). The Croatian Army displayed singular insensitivity towards the Serbian Orthodox church in the village of Kučanci, the birthplace of the present Serbian Patriarch Pavle. The Croatian authorities have also expelled the Bishops of the Serbian Orthodox Church from Croatia and did everything to prevent their return. To that effect, they dynamited or demolished all Bishops' residences and cathedral churches, including those in Pakrac, the hub of Serbian spiritual life in Western Slavonia, Osijek, Karlovac and elsewhere. In a word, everywhere in the territory of the former Yugoslav federal unit of Croatia, where the Serb people offered no resistance (in ethnically mixed communities) or where it expressed allegiance to the new Croatian authorities, the Serb people have been the victim of genocide. History has repeated itself, the ignominious policy of Mile Budak, Minister in Pavelić's quisling Government of the so-called Independent State of Croatia during the Second World War, has risen its ugly head all over again: Serbs are to be killed, expelled or converted into Catholicism. An important street in Zagreb has been recently renamed after Budak, while surviving Ustaha war criminals from the Second World War have found their place in the Croatian Sabor, Government and diplomacy.

Confident that the United Nations and the international community as a whole will not turn a blind eye to these gross violations of the rights of the Serb people in a United Nations Member State, carried out in blatant disregard of the fundamental principles of international law, I trust and believe that Your Excellency will take appropriate measures, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, to prevent the ethnic cleansing and the destruction of the establishments of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the cultural heritage of the Serb people in the territory of the Republic of Croatia.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ

APPENDIX I

The results of an investigation by a team of the European Community Monitoring Mission to Yugoslavia on 7 November 1992 addressed to His Beatitude Bishop Lukijan as a result of his inquiry

A.	Oblakovac.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
B.	Vučjak Čačavači.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
C.	Jominovac.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
D.	Kujnik.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
E.	Orljavac.	All Serb houses destroyed only Croat residents remain.
F.	Crljenci.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
G.	Šlubоština.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
H.	Milivojevci.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
I.	Podsreće.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
J.	Vranić.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
K.	Nješić.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
L.	Pozeški.	As there are many villages with the second part of the name Pozeški, clarification is required.
M.	Markovac.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
N.	Klisa.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
O.	Odzakovoi.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
P.	Poljanska.	The village is in relatively good shape - about 12 houses have been destroyed.
Q.	Kantrovoi.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
R.	Gornji Vrhovoi.	Every house destroyed, no inhabitants remain.
C.	Lučinoi.	Most of the Serbs have returned to the village and two families, who now live in Posega, returned to work on a farm. There are very few damaged houses and Croat and Serb residents live in harmony. Three Muslim refugee families have moved into the village from Bosnia.

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A. Šnjegavić. We were unable to visit this village as the road to the village was blocked. We suspect that this village has also been destroyed.

B. Oljasi. The parish house has been considerably damaged, but not completely destroyed. It could be repaired.

C. Smoljanovoi. Although the bell tower is still standing, all houses in the village have been destroyed and no inhabitants remain.

3. Response to paragraph 6:

A. Treštanovci. The orthodox priest Vojislav Blagojevic left his parish voluntarily about 17 August 1992 and returned to his native town in Bosnia. His wife and children returned to Serbia prior to his departure. Discussion with villagers indicate that approximately 70 per cent of the village is Serbian and they live in complete harmony with their Croat neighbours. The orthodox priest left his home after all the villages in his parish had been destroyed and the people had left them.

B. Jakšić. The village now contains a population of 25 to 28 per cent Serbs, 10 per cent Muslim/Albanian and the remainder Croat. The houses that have been blown up are those of people who have left the village. Conditions are 100 per cent better now than before the war and the people want to live in harmony. Although there are no Serbs serving on the Council, there were two until just recently. There are a small number of Serbs who would be willing to change houses with Croats living in Vojvodina.

A. Gradište. The church is standing and is undamaged, although the parish house has been destroyed, as well as seven other houses in the village. There are 22 empty houses in the village and 20 houses occupied by elderly residents. The village population consists of 95 per cent Serb and approximately 5 per cent Croat.

Latinovac. The church has not been harmed by the war, but it does show signs of damage and requires normal maintenance. The population of the village is 70 per cent Serb and 30 per cent Croat. There are no blown-up houses and most of the people who remain in the village are elderly. There was no fighting in this village during the war and all the residents live in harmony.

C. Ciglenik. Three houses have been blown up and three houses burned, with the last house blown up in August and the last provocation was about mid-October with rifle fire through a window in one house. The residents of the village are afraid and some would like to exchange houses, but have not the proper papers to do so.

D. Kula. Almost 60 per cent of the villagers have changed houses and 35 per cent of those remaining are old. There are nine Serbs who have a position with the village committee and the village appears peaceful. There is some attempt to change the name of the village to Hrtôvci.

A. Crkveni Vrhovci. The church was destroyed on 3 June 1992 and only the tower remains standing and appears to be in good shape. All Serb inhabitants have remained in the village and are well, with only very minor provocations reported. The residents would like to rebuild the church, but do not have the money to do so.

APPENDIX II

An interim report of 27 August 1992 on the churches in Croatia from the European Community Monitoring Mission to Yugoslavia in Belgrade to Archdeacon Rakić

With reference to your letter of 29 July 1992, herewith is an interim verbatim report from our people in Nasice on this matter. We hope to have more later.

1. Budimici/Bela Loza

1.	Budimici.	The church has been lightly damaged. The house of the priest is still in good condition. Around 5 houses have been blown up. About 60 men are in jail awaiting trial for illegal ownership of weapons. Morale is good.
2.	Bela Loza.	The situation is relatively quiet. No houses have been blown up. A few tractors were stolen in July.
2.	Podravska Slatina.	The priest was present with his wife during the meeting. 400 families have left the town since 1991. About 10 families have departed each month for the last three months as opportunities to exchange properties with Croats have arisen. The priest encourages these departures, but is not really happy about it. Around 300 houses have been blown up since last year.
3.	Virovitica.	The situation remains tense. Terrorists are few because of the distance from the front line. Some houses have been blown up, but it was impossible to get accurate information.
4.	Dijelka.	The priest departed when his house was blown up. The people are in good condition, but the situation remains tense.
5.	Gradina.	Some houses have been destroyed, but there are Serbs still living in the town.
6.	Gaciste.	50 per cent Serb/Croat. Relations between the communities are stable at present. Few houses have been destroyed. The last one was blown up eight weeks ago.
7.	Sokolac.	3 houses have been blown up. People seem to be living normally, but some Serbs have departed. Threat is low.

8. Gornji Miholjac. The situation is still very tense. There are threats from extremists, which police are trying to deal with. The priest has been living elsewhere since his house was blown up on 18 July and he is still receiving threats.

Generally the situation is described as tense for the Serbian people who live in the Marcice community.

We hope this rather scanty information is of help. More will follow in due course.

With best wishes

Michael SHUTTLEWORTH